

Minutes of a meeting of the **ENVIRONMENT** Committee held at the Town Hall,  
The Broadway, Crowborough on Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2012 at 7.30 pm

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Present	Councillors	Quentin Burch Elizabeth Fermor Philip Fermor Kay Moss Ronald Reed David Shaw Andrew Steen Matthew Street * Sandra Timms	Vice-Chairman Chairman
Also present		John Coleman Cllr Peter Cowie Cllr Richard Stogdon Scott Lipa Barry Kemp Philippa Hewes David Foot Emma Newman Susan Barnard 1 member of the public	Uckfield Railway Line Parishes Comm Crowborough Town Council East Sussex County Council Wealdlink Transport Crowborough Conservation Town Clerk Operations Manager Ranger Operations Administrator

\* *Denotes non attendance*

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**APOLOGIES**

Cllr Matthew Street – personal reason.

**DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Cllr Sandra Timms declared a personal interest in signage for the Citizens Advice Bureau, for which she is a volunteer.

Cllr Kay Moss declared a personal interest in signage for the Citizens Advice Bureau as she is the Council's representative.

**MINUTES**

Minutes – 29<sup>th</sup> November 2011

**6391 RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> November 2011 as confirmed be signed by the Chairman.

**MATTERS OUTSTANDING (including reports on updates)**

Replacement bus shelters (6276)

*Replacement bus shelters are on order with an anticipated delivery and installation in February. Groundstaff to remove old shelters.*

NOTED

To consider replacement light at Limekiln Court, Palesgate Lane

Further to letters being sent to nearby residents, two replies have been received requesting that the light be retained on the basis that the area around the garages would otherwise be insufficiently illuminated.

**6392 RESOLVED** to replace the column at a cost of up to £1,200 + VAT.

Graffiti on bus shelter outside Woodlands, Beacon Road

*The graffiti has been removed by groundstaff.*

NOTED

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**Report from Scott Lipa of Wealdlink Transport

A Wealdlink Update report was circulated to Councillors. Scott Lipa advised that the Wealdlink office was now located in Upper Hartfield, a new website had been launched ([www.4weald.co.uk](http://www.4weald.co.uk)) and a grant awarded for a new bus. Services currently provided include a shopping service from villages to Crowborough and Tunbridge Wells, a new youth transport scheme and a dementia transport scheme designed to give carers a break. Additional volunteer drivers and passenger assistants are urgently needed. It was emphasized that Wealdlink provides a service for the whole community and the Town Council was thanked for its contribution to funding.

Uckfield-Lewes Railway

John Coleman's written report had been circulated with the agenda. In response to a question, Mr Colman explained that, for a disabled person to exit Crowborough station it is necessary to travel on to Uckfield and then return in order to avoid the footbridge. Eridge station is totally inaccessible to the disabled and Oxted only recently became accessible.

A Crowborough Station Partnership is likely to be in place soon, with the aim of improving the appearance of the station exterior, and possibly also the platforms, largely by means of planting. The upcoming franchise revision has serious implications for the Uckfield line, including the possibility of Network Rail staff being controlled by operators.

**CROWBOROUGH TOWN MAP**To consider the display of a town map

The Town Council has received an offer to design a new town map free of charge. Whilst a map of the town is available from the Town Hall, no maps are displayed around the town. There may also be a possibility to incorporate a town map as part of the station improvements.

It was **AGREED** to invite the gentleman making the offer to attend the next meeting to discuss details of his offer and possibly to provide an example to view.

## **CROWBOROUGH'S NATURAL HABITATS**

### Matters Outstanding on Natural Habitats (including reports on updates)

#### Waymarkers – Silver Jubilee (6115)

*This project has been deferred in view of the planned absence of the Ranger and a possible review of pedestrian routes.*

NOTED

#### Leaflet – The Ghyll (6116)

*Work continues on the leaflet.*

NOTED

#### Boundary management – The Ghyll and Country Park (6335)

*Of the 3 further companies contacted regarding the survey work, only 1 has provided a quotation. Aworth Survey Consultants, a local firm based in Uckfield, has been selected as the contractor to undertake the work based on their quotation of £1770 + VAT for The Ghyll and £1660 + VAT for the Country Park and a sample of previous work.*

NOTED

#### Change to closing times at the car parks at The Ghyll and Country Park (6336)

*Signs have been ordered for the revised closing times.*

NOTED

#### The Ghyll – interpretation boards (6337)

*Work has started on the interpretation boards.*

NOTED

### **Items from Ranger's Report for consideration**

#### Proposed Byelaws for The Ghyll

Whilst the byelaws cannot be progressed until The Ghyll is formally declared a local nature reserve, Councillors are invited to comment on the draft proposal

#### Installation of new culvert at The Ghyll

**6393** **RESOLVED** to install a culvert at The Ghyll at a cost of £927.50 + VAT.

#### Threatened Species Project and other volunteering

Barry Kemp explained about some of the conservation tasks undertaken by volunteers and work associated with the Threatened Species Project.

#### Car park at Silver Jubilee/The Ghyll

Various options for improvements to the car park at the Silver Jubilee entrance to The Ghyll were reviewed. Whilst some safety measures are required, it was agreed to defer any further work at the present time.

**6394** **RESOLVED** to install an Armco safety barrier adjacent to the deep ditch at a cost of £950 + VAT, to replace the broken close-boarded fence at a cost of £300 + VAT and to reuse an existing gate to close off unauthorized vehicular access to the field.

To consider draft Health & Safety Policy for Volunteer Workers

Cllr Ron Reed has drawn up a Health & Safety Policy Statement and draft Risk Assessment form for volunteer workers. All work undertaken has to be agreed first at the Town Hall and a risk assessment undertaken.

The Ranger expressed her unease with the Policy Statement, which is not as detailed as the procedures/policies adopted by the county council.

- 6395** **RESOLVED** to adopt the Health and Safety Policy Statement for Volunteer Workers as presented.

**ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES**

Summer planting – report and approval on new plant holders

*An initial meeting has been held with the Council's supplier to discuss planting to support the Olympic 'look'. One bed on Canada Green will be used for planting to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee.*

- 6396** **RESOLVED** to purchase a basket tree for £848 + VAT to be situated on the Piazza.

- 6397** **RESOLVED** to purchase barrier baskets/hanging baskets for the High Street and to spend up to £2000 + VAT for all the new plant holders (including 6396).

Conan Doyle statue – maintenance and improvements

*It is recommended that the statue is cleaned on an annual basis and it was last cleaned in July 2011. The cost of the annual clean is £300 + VAT.*

*The stone plinth has been stained from the bronze of the statue and cannot be cleaned. Consideration to be given to covering the plinth with blank granite.*

Other suggestions for solving the problem included sandblasting and then sealing the stone or painting it. A stonemason is due to examine the plinth but has already suggested removing the statue temporarily in order to cover the plinth with black granite.

It was **AGREED** to consider the issue of the plinth further at the next meeting.

- 6398** **RESOLVED** to have the statue cleaned professionally later this year.

**TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS**

To review the location of dog waste bins and consider any changes required

Dog waste bins are supplied by Wealden District Council but the Town Council pays for them to be emptied, currently £4.65 per bin for each emptying but rising to £4.80 in April.

It was **AGREED** that Wealden District Council should be asked if some bins are not well used and that the issue will be reconsidered at the next meeting.

- 6399** Request for Citizens Advice Bureau road sign to be placed on street light  
**RESOLVED** that permission should be given for a sign advertising the new location of the Citizens Advice Bureau to be placed on a lighting column owned by the Town Council in Croham Road.

- 6400** Proposal for a No Cold Calling Zone at Alderbrook  
**RESOLVED** that the Town Council supports the proposal for a No Cold Calling Zone at Alderbrook.

**FINANCE**

Management Accounts to 30<sup>th</sup> November 2011 and to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2011

- 6401** **RESOLVED** to adopt the Management Accounts for the two periods ending 30<sup>th</sup> November and 31<sup>st</sup> December 2011.

**URGENT MATTERS AT THE DISCRETION OF THE CHAIRMAN FOR NOTING AND/OR INCLUSION ON A FUTURE AGENDA**

A rubbish bin on the footpath between Fermor School and Beacon Community College was thrown over the fence over the Christmas period, resulting rubbish strewn everywhere. This matter has already been reported to Wealden District Council.

A bus stop post at Crowborough Hill has been knocked over; this will be reviewed and reported to East Sussex County Council.

The meeting closed at 9.35pm.